

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILDLIFE
WITHOUT BORDERS AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT OF 2007: DECEMBER 11,
2007

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Wildlife Without Borders Authorization Act.

The Wildlife Without Borders Program was created administratively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1983. The mission of this program is to develop wildlife management and conservation efforts to maintain global species diversity.

While the Congress has already created Multinational Species Conservation Funds to assist highly imperiled African and Asian elephants, Rhinoceros and Tigers, Great Apes and Marine Turtles, this program has provided a funding lifeline to a number of additional endangered species that are not currently eligible for funding, are not considered a megafauna or a flagship species and frankly lack the public attention necessary to generate private financial assistance.

The first conservation grants issued under this program were awarded to the Wildlife Without Borders Program for Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative. Since that time, additional grants have been allocated for projects in Mexico, India, China and the Russian Federation. In fact, in the past two decades, the International Affairs Office within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved 583 conservation projects at a cost of \$13 million in taxpayer money. These funds have been matched by \$43.7 million in private non-federal money which is a remarkable 3 to 1 matching ratio.

Among the conservation projects that have been approved are funds for the Winged Ambassadors Program to stop the killing of Swainsons' hawks, a project to restore and conserve the forest habitat for monarch butterflies, jaguar conservation in the Yucatan region, the restoration of the California condor in Baja California, Mexico and the purchase of essential equipment for law enforcement personnel to protect imperiled Far Eastern leopards, Amur tigers and snow leopards.

A fundamental goal of this program has been to build conservation capacity and establish ecosystem management regimes by allocating a small amount of U.S. taxpayer money. It is no exaggeration to state that these are the only funds available to assist these highly endangered international species and without this investment these species may become extinct in the wild. In addition, this program has complemented the activities of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

By establishing a Congressional authorization for the Wildlife Without Borders Program we will send a positive message to the international community that the United States is committed to its international wildlife treaty obligations and we recognize the long-term importance of this program by enacting it into law.

I urge my colleagues to support this important conservation legislation and want to thank my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Congressman JIM SAXTON for joining with me in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DENNIS FRATE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Dennis Frate, a medical anthropologist known for his studies of rural health in the Mississippi Delta.

Dr. Frate was a former pharmacy professor at the University of Mississippi. He worked in the School of Pharmacy from 1980 until 2000. He retired June 30, 2007 as a professor of preventative medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, which is in my Congressional District.

As we are all well aware, rural areas of this country are vastly underserved. Dr. Frate took this problem head-on through the Rural Health Research Program. Dr. Frate served as the coordinator of the Rural Health Research Program and principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health study to develop community-based programs to control high blood pressure in rural populations.

Many of our colleagues here in Congress have espoused the notion of expanding healthcare coverage. Dr. Frate lived it.

It is through community efforts as demonstrated by Dr. Frate that we may be able to achieve a reality of accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

During his 20-plus years of service, Dr. Frate touched the lives of many, proving that even the simplest ideas can make a big difference.

I take great pride in commending the work of Dr. Dennis Frate on a job well done for more than 20 years.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-
PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3915) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to establish licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, this legislation may be interpreted to have the unintended consequence of changing the federal regulator governing Farm Credit System lenders, who as mortgage loan originators will be subject to the regulatory controls in this legislation. As H.R. 3915 progresses through Congress, I intend to work with my colleagues to ensure that any regulatory controls resulting from this legislation to Farm Credit System institutions are managed by their current federal regulator, the Farm Credit Administration.

IN HONOR OF DAN deGRASSI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my cousin Dan deGrassi on his retirement. Dan has worked for Santa Cruz County in environmental preservation for most of his adult life.

A third generation Berkley graduate, Dan deGrassi completed his education to enter his adult years in a world in turmoil over war, race relations and social mores. With deep feelings about the changes he observed in the societal fabric around him, he became a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War and as such, Dan sought alternative service. It was then that he started his environmental work in 1971 at the Ecology Center in Berkley, California.

Realizing a connection to environmental preservation, Dan moved down to Santa Cruz in 1973 and began work at the local recycling center. The following year, Dan returned to school, this time to study in environmental studies, a passion that would follow him throughout his life. In 1974 Dan married Laurel and the two welcomed their daughter Jessica 2 years later.

Starting 2 weeks after his daughter's birth, Dan began his work at the Santa Cruz County Advanced Planning Department, where he worked to preserve prime agricultural areas. Two years later, he and Laurel welcomed their second child, a boy, Aaron to the family. Later on Dan moved on to curbside recycling and helped pioneer the Materials Recovery Facility, which specializes in organization of recyclable materials.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to consider Dan both family and friend. His work in ensuring the preservation of the environment and his dedication to Santa Cruz County is inspiring and I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his service.

TRIBUTE TO C.T. COZART

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C.T. Cozart from my hometown of Chattanooga, TN, as he steps down as Chairman of the Board of Carson Newman College. Thank you for allowing me to take a moment to recognize his tremendous contributions and to thank him for his service to our state and nation. Mr. Cozart has been an outstanding leader in our civic and faith communities.

C.T. graduated from the University of Tennessee and began a 30-year career with Chevron. In 1996, he retired as the vice president of marketing for Chevron Lubricants and moved back to his home state of Tennessee. His career caused frequent moves, so he and his wife became active in over ten churches throughout the country. The church was his most important connection with each new town and its people. C.T. is a deacon, has taught Sunday school, and served as head of the pastor search committee at two churches, most recently at Red Bank Baptist Church.